

-175-

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A process for preparing 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-N-2-(4-fluorophen-1-oxo-ethyl)piperidine comprising the steps of:
- a) subjecting 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]pyridine to catalytic
 hydrogenation to provide 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-
10 dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]piperidine; and
- b) reacting 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]piperidine with a
 suitable 4-fluorophenylacetylating reagent, in the presence of a suitable base
 and a suitable solvent to provide 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-
15 dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-N-2-(4-fluorophen-1-oxo-ethyl)piperidine.
2. A compound which is 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-N-2-(4-
 fluorophen-1-oxo-ethyl)piperidine.

20